

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 12566 081316Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 081220Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4082
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ROME 12566

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE, VT
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF VATICAN ON LEBANON

REF: STATETELS 172475, 172481, 171142

1. MORNING OF JULY 8 IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER SILVESTRINI AND MIDDLE EAST EXPERT MONTERISI, SARROS BRIEFED THEM ON LEBANON SITUATION, DRAWING ON INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTELS. THEY PROMISED TO CONVEY ASAP POINTS MADE TO MSGR CASAROLI AND TOPOPE PAUL AND PROVIDE US WITH VATICAN VIEWS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THREE ITEMS:

- (A) VATICAN EFFORTS TO FORESTALL RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS
- (B) STATUS OF VATICAN CONSIDERATION ABOUT SENDING SPECIAL PAPAL EMISSARY TO LEBANON AND
- (C) FURTHER VATICAN ACTIVITIES FOR URGING RESTRAINT ON CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN LEBANON.

2. WHILE WE AVOIDED USING BEIRUT 3807, VATICAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED
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CONTINUING INTEREST IN USG EVALUATION OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS AND IN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON SYRIAN DEMANDS FOR RESOLVING CURRENT CRISIS. IT IS THE VATICAN'S UNDERSTANDING THAT SYRIA DEMANDS THREE IMMEDIATE CONCESSIONS: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS; AND PERMISSION TO ADF TO OPERATE FREELY THROUGHOUT LEBANESE TERRITORY, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SYRIAN TROOPS INTO LEBANON.

3. VATICAN OFFICIALS APPRECIATE CONTINUE BRIEFINGS ON
SITUATION IN LEBANON. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY GET A STREAM OF
INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS LEBANESE SOURCES AND FIND U.S.G.
POINT OF VIEW HELPFUL IN EVALUATING SUCH INFORMATION. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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